

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 IO-13 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 HA-05 EB-08 /083 W  
-----079123 220621Z /14

R 210800Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8724  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652 N/A  
TAGS: EAGR, PGOV, EPAP, LA  
SUBJECT: LAO GOVERNMENT ORGANIZES DRY SEASON RICE PLANTING

REF: VIENTIANE 1244,

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. VIENTIANE HOUSEHOLDS ARE BEING REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE ONE MEMBER FOR TWO TO THREE DAYS LABOR EACH WEEK IN DRY SEASON RICE PLANTING IN MARSH AREAS IN THE VIENTIANE VICINITY. VIETNAMESE HOUSEHOLDS APPEAR TO BE PARTICIPATING IN THE WORK PROGRAM BUT REPORTS INDICATE THAT CHINESE HOUSEHOLDS HAVE BEEN SLOW TO JOIN THE EFFORT.

2. THE LPRP DAILY "SIANG PASASON" NOVEMBER 18 HEADLINES DRY SEASON RICE PLANTING ACTIVITY IN OTHER PARTS OF LAOS "IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY".

3. IN THE VIENTIANE AREA THE PROGRAM CALLS FOR THE PLANTING OF WHITE

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RICE INSTEAD OF THE TRADITIONAL "STICKY RICE" (GLUTINOUS RICE) WITH SEEDS FURNISHED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT. RESIDENTS HERE HAVE RAISED OBJECTIONS TO GROWING WHITE RICE INSTEAD OF STICKY RICE COMPLAINING THAT THE WHITE RICE IS "NOT FILLING". THE GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS, HOWEVER, THAT WHITE RICE PROVIDES MORE FOOD BULK WHEN BOILED THAN THE SAME QUANTITY OF STICKY RICE WHEN STEAMED.

4. COMMENT: WHITE RICE, WHEN BOILED, SWELLS TO A VOLUME NEARLY THREE TIMES THAT OF THE SAME QUANTITY OF STICKY RICE WHEN STEAMED. LOCAL RICE MERCHANTS STATE THAT WHILE THE AVERAGE ADULT REQUIRES 24 KILOGRAMS OF STICKY RICE PER MONTH, AN ADULT REQUIRES ONLY 12 TO 15 KILOGRAMS OF WHITE RICE PER MONTH.

5. COMMENT: DRY SEASON RICE IS HARVESTED IN EARLY APRIL OR AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME IN 1978 THAT THE UN/LPDR RICE REPORT (REFTEL) PREDICTED THAT LAO RICE STOCKS WOULD BE DEPLETED. THE SIZE OF THE DRY SEASON RICE HARVEST WILL DEPEND ON THE SCOPE OF THE PLANTING AND WEATHER. (WHILE NOT DEPENDENT ON MONSOONAL RAIN, THE CROP CAN BE DAMAGED BY THE COLD.)

6. COMMENT: WHILE THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGED THE PLANTING OF VEGETABLE GARDENS BY VIENTIANE RESIDENTS AND LAO COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT LAOS IN 1976 (AND HAS DONE SO THIS YEAR, EMPHASIZING STARCHY CROPS), DRY SEASON RICE PLANTING ON A BROAD SCALE IS A NEW EXPERIMENT BY THE LPDR.

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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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